

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJECT: INDO-SRI LANKA ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENTS

1. ON FEBRUARY 10 INDIA AND SRI LANKA SIGNED THREE AGREE-
MENTS AND AN AGREED MINUTE COVERING AID, TRADE AND SCIENTIFIC
COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE AGREED MINUTES,
SIGNED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN AND SRI LANKA MINISTER OF CO-
MMERCE AND FOREIGN TRADE T.B. ILLANGARATNAE, CALLED FOR EXPANDED
BILATERAL COOPERATION IN TRADE, AGRICUTURE AND INDUSTRY. THE
DOCUMENT RECORDS SRI LANKA'S CONCERN ABOUT THE SHARP BILATERAL
ADVERSE TRADE IMBALANCE AND INDIAN WILLINGNESS TO GIVE PRE-
FERENTIAL TREATMENT TO IMPORTS FROM SRI LANKA OF GRAPHITE, COCOA,
CLOVES AND CINNAMON. SRI LANKA WILL BUY VEHICLES AND INDUSTRIAL
GOODS. INDIA OFFERED TO HELP SRI LANKA IN JOINT VENTURE MANU-
FACTURING OF DIESEL ENGINES, PUMPS, AND RUBBER BELTING AND IT
WAS AGREED THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED BY INDIA
FOR SHEEP AND CATTLE BREEDING, SUGARCANE CULTIVATION, FISHERIES,
GOBAR GAS PLANT DEVELOPMENT AND RUAL TECHNICAL CENTERS. INDIA
ALSO REPORTEDLY AGREED TO ASSIST SRI LANKA TO RUN ITS MER-
CHANT MARINE.

2. IN SEPARATE AGREEMENTS SIGNED AT THE SECRETARY LEVEL, INDIA

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PROVIDED ITS 6TH CREDIT AGREEMENT, THIS TIME FOR RS.50 MILLION,

AND A WORKING PROGRAM ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS ESTABLISHED. THE LATTER IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE JOINT RESEARCH IN SUCH FIELDS AS UTILIZATION OF RUBBER AND PROBLEMS AFFECTING TEA, COCONUT PRODUCTS, VEGETABLE OILS AND FIBERS, EXTRACTION AND SEPARATION OF THORIUM, CERIUM AND PHOSPHATES FROM MONASITE, MANIOC PRODUCTS, METRLOGY, ETC. A THIRD AGREEMENT AFFIRMED JOINT INTENTION TO COMPLETE MICROWAVE CONNECTIONS BY 1978 WITH INDIA TO SUPPLY RS. 27.5 MILLION OF EQUIPMENT AND SRI LANKA TO FINANCE LOCAL COSTS IN SRI LANKA.

3. FUTURE MEETINGS WERE AGREED TO WITH RESPECT TO CIVIL AVIATION, AND LINKING OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' POWER GRIDS.

4. AT THE SIGNING CEREMONIES ILLANGARATHNAE WAS QUOTED AS EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR INDIAN ASSISTANCE IN SRI LANKA ACHIEVING ITS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. SRI LANKA HAD PLACED ITS CARDS BEFORE INDIA, "THERE WERE NO TRUMPS UP OUR SLEEVES, AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE UNDERSTANDING."

5. COMMENT: SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD CARD GAME.SAXBE

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